

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ABU DH 01656 110731Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO DIA WASHDC//DB-4

SECSTATE WASHDC 7977

INFO USDAO TEHRAN

USDAO JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

CONFIDENTIAL ABU DHABI 1656

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA, PINR

SUBJ: ACCESS TO PETROLEUM FACILITIES (U)

REF: DIA 082302Z JUN 78 (NOT SENT SECSTATE)

1. REFTEL REQUESTS INFO ON FEASIBILITY OF ON-SITE VISIT TO
ABU DHABI OFF-SHORE OIL FACILITIES ON DAS ISLAND BY DIA PETROLEUM
ANALYST MR. EUGENE BOZAY SOMETIME THIS SUMMER. UNCLEAR WHETHER THIS
PROPOSED VISIT CLEARED WITH DEPT OF STATE PRIOR TO INQUIRY BEING
RECEIVED THIS POST.

2. UAE FEDERAL AND ABU DHABI EMIRATE AUTHORITIES ARE CURRENTLY
VERY SENSITIVE ABOUT OUTSIDE VISITORS TO DAS ISLAND AND INDEED TO OTHER
PETROLEUM FACILITIES HERE SUCH AS RUWAIS AND JEBAL DHANNA.
ALL SUCH VISITS MUST NOT ONLY BE ARRANGED THROUGH CONCESSION
OPERATOR, IN THIS CASE ABU DHABI MARINE AREAS - OPERATING
COMPANY (ADMA-OPCO), BUT ALSO REQUIRE PRIOR APPROVAL OF MINISTRIES
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERIOR. SUCH ARRANGEMENTS ARE NOT
EASILY MADE (THREE EMBASSY OFFICERS WERE PERMITTED TO VISIT DAS
ONLY AFTER SEVERAL REQUESTS TO ADMA-OPCO) AND DIPLOMATIC
VISITORS TEND TO BE KEPT UNDER CLOSE IF POLITE POLICE SURVEILLANCE

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WHILE ON DAS. RECENTLY, GROUP OF SEVEN VISITING FRENCH PARLIAMENTARIANS WERE TURNED BACK BY POLICE AFTER THEY HAD LANDED AT DAS AIRPORT. THEIR SPONSOR, CFP, AFTER FAILING TO RECEIVE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR APPROVAL IN TIME, HAD TRIED TO PROCEED WITHOUT CLEARANCE.

3. POSSIBILITIES OF OUR OBTAINING CLEARANCE FOR BOZAY VISIT TO

DAS WOULD IN OUR ESTIMATION BE SERIOUSLY LESSENED BY HIS CONNECTION WITH DIA. UAE AND OTHER GULF OFFICIALS ARE ALREADY SENSITIZED TO US MILITARY INTELLIGENCE INTEREST IN THEIR OIL FACILITIES BY ARABIC PRESS SCARE STORIES ALLEGING USG MILITARY PLANS EXIST TO OCCUPY ARABIAN OIL FIELDS IN EVENT NEW MIDEAST WAR OR ARAB OIL EMBARGO. IDENTIFICATION OF MR. BOZAY WITH US MILITARY IN ANY WAY LIKELY AROUSE SUSPICIONS THAT VISIT IS SOMEHOW CONNECTED TO SUCH ALLEGED PLANNING.

3. GIVEN UAE SENSITIVITIES NOTED ABOVE AS WELL AS DIFFICULTIES WE HAVE IN ARRANGING FOR VISITS BY OUR OWN EMBASSY STAFF TO DAS, WE ARE FRANKLY RELUCTANT TO USE UP OUR LIMITED OPPORTUNITIES TO GAIN ACCESS TO DAS BY SUBMITTING REQUEST FOR HIS VISIT THROUGH EMBASSY CHANNEL. SHOULD MR. BOZAY HAVE FRIENDLY CONTACT WITHIN INTERNATIONAL OIL COMPANIES WHO COULD ARRANGE FOR HIM TO VISIT DAS DISCREETLY AS MEMBER OF OIL COMPANY PARTY, EMBASSY WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO HIS DOING SO.

DICKMAN

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